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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 02007 121600Z

70
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
---------- 032499
R 121455Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8297
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2007

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR FR MO SS
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MOROCCAN INVITATION TO VISIT EL-AYOUN

REF: STATE 85398 (NOTAL)

1. QUESTION OF POSSIBLE MOROCCAN INVITATION TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO VISIT EL-AYOUN REMAINS ACADEMIC FOR MOMENT, AND WE DETECT NO SIGN OF SUCH A MOVE BY GOM. FURTHERMORE, A NUMBER OF KNOWLEDGE-ABLE AMBASSADORS HERE, INCLUDING FRENCH, BELIEVE GOM UNLIKELY TO PROCEED IN THIS DIRECTION. THIS ASSESSMENT SUPPORTED BY PRIVATE COMMENT IN MID-FEBRUARY BY PRIMIN OSMAN TO ONE AMBASSADOR THAT THERE NO QUESTION OF INVITATION AS GOM WELL AWARE THIS COULD CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT TO SOME GOVERNMENTS.

2. SEVERAL WESTERN EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS HAVE TOLD ME THEY ARE TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS SHOULD INVITATION BE ISSUED. WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR ALSO COMMENTED THAT WHILE HIS GOVERNMENT HAD "NO POLICY" ON QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY IN SAHARA, HE HAD STRICT INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING CONSULAR PROBLEMS ARISING IN THE TERRITORY THAT NO GERMAN CONSULAR OFFICIAL SHOULD BE SENT THERE. INSTEAD, PROBLEMS SHOULD BE HANDLED WITH MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES AT LOWEST LEVEL, PREFERABLY
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IN CASABLANCA RATHER THAN CAPITAL.

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3. COMMENT: WESTERN EUROPEANS ARE OBVIOUSLY HIGHLY SENSITIVE
TO IMPLICATIONS OF ANY VISIT TO SAHARA BY FOREIGN OFFICIALS.
OPINION OF DEPARTMENT'S LEGAL BUREAU OUTLINED PARA 1 REFTEL
NOTWITHSTANDING, WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT THEY AND OTHERS MIGHT
WELL VIEW VISIT BY US AMBASSADOR AS IMPLYING A DEGREE OF US
RECOGNITION OF MOROCCAN SOVEREIGNTY IN SAHARA. AT SAME TIME, I
WOULD AGREE WITH LOCAL ANALYSIS THAT GOM UNLIKELY TO PRESS INVITATION,

AS MOROCCANS COULD LOSE RATHER THAN GAIN IF SIGNIFICANT NUMBER
OF OTHERWISE FRIENDLY STATES DECLINED. SHOULD GOM NEVERTHELESS
GO AHEAD WITH INVITATION, I WOULD OF COURSE CONSULT WITH FRIENDLY
EMBASSIES IN RABAT AND REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS.
ANDERSON

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# Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994
**Channel Indicators:** n/a
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** RECOGNITION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, INVITATIONS, VISITS, AMBASSADORS
**Control Number:** n/a
**Copy:** SINGLE
**Draft Date:** 12 APR 1976
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
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**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** POSSIBLE MOROCCAN INVITATION TO VISIT EL-AYOUN
**TAGS:** PFOR, FR, MO, SS
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
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